

BEFORE THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

IRIS LAZARUS,

Case #0081012952

Charging Party,

ORDER

-v-

MONTANA TELECOM ACCESS
PROGRAM,

Respondent.

Iris Lazarus (Lazarus) filed a complaint with the Department of Labor and Industry (Department) alleging that Montana Telecom Access Program (MTAP) discriminated against her on the basis of her religion and political beliefs when she was subjected to a hostile work environment and when she was terminated. Following an informal investigation, the Department determined that a preponderance of the evidence did not support Lazarus's allegations of unlawful discrimination. The Department issued a Notice of Dismissal. Lazarus filed an objection with the Montana Human Rights Commission (Commission). The Commission considered the matter on January 26, 2009.

The Commission reviews a decision of the Department to dismiss a complaint using an abuse of discretion standard. *Section 49-2-511(2), MCA*. After careful consideration, the Commission concludes the determination of the Department to dismiss the complaint in this case is not an abuse of discretion.

If a charging party chooses to commence a civil action in district court, the charging party has 90 days after the date this order is issued to petition a district court, in the district where the alleged violation occurred, for the appropriate relief. *Section 49-*

2-511(3)(a), MCA. If a charging party fails to commence a civil action within 90 days, the claim is time barred. *Id.*

Alternatively, a party may ask a district court to review the decision of the Commission to affirm the dismissal of a complaint. *Section 49-2-511(3)(b), MCA; Mont. Code Ann. § 2-4-702.* This review must be requested within 30 days after the date this order is issued.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that Iris Lazarus's objections are **overruled**. The Commission affirms the determination of the Human Rights Bureau to dismiss the complaint against Montana Telecom Access Program.

DATED this ____ day of February, 2009.

Chair Ryan C. Rusche
Human Rights Commission

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned secretary for the Human Rights Commission certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing ORDER was mailed to the following by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, on this _____ day of February, 2009.

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Montana Human Rights Bureau